

The Hour

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GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE KLAN ACTIVITY IN DETROIT

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The *Hour* is reliably informed that government authorities will undertake a comprehensive investigation of the Ku Klux Klan activity in Detroit, Michigan, following an initial probe of the Klan's role in investigating a riot on February 28 at a defense housing project in the auto city.

The urgent need for such an investigation was pointed out by The *Hour* on February 7 in an article, "Klan Hampers War Effort In Detroit," in which we revealed that the KKK had launched an intensive drive to capture executive positions in the United Automobile Workers union and "to interfere with production in auto plants now working on war orders." In describing the devices Klansmen were using to sabotage production, we reported, "They are spreading virulent anti-Semitic and anti-Negro propaganda to confuse and disrupt the workers. They provoke slowdowns and even wildcat sitdown strikes in the factories. They fight every union project aimed at supporting the U. S. war effort."

The Klan conspiracy achieved grim results on February 28 when scores of people were injured in the riot at the Sojourner Truth Settlement, a 200-unit defense housing project designated by the United States Housing Authority for Negro occupancy. We are informed that this riot, which occurred as Negro defense workers and their families were trying to move into the housing project, was organized at secret Klan gatherings held on the previous night, when the hooded Fifth Columnists received orders to keep the Negro workers from entering their new homes. That same evening Klansmen burned a cross before the housing project; and on the night after the riot, which prevented occupancy of the settlement, they burned a second cross in triumph.

Union Fights Klan

The United Automobile Workers union is carrying on a vigorous fight against the seditious work of the Klan. The most recent issue of the Packard edition of the *United Automobile Worker* devotes its entire eight pages to exposing the subversive activities of the KKK and their fascist allies. The *Hour* assisted in the preparation of this edition, which reached 17,000 defense workers. After its publication we received a letter from James Lindahl, Recording Secretary of the Packard Local and editor of its paper, which stated in part: "As you will note, the paper throughout has relied heavily on *The Hour*. Without your assistance it would not have been possible to bring this matter to the auto workers."

We now learn that within the next few days the Packard Local will bring charges against Frank Bushrle, exposed in our February 7 issue as the ringleader for the Klan's disruptive activity in the Packard plant.

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HEIL HOFFMAN!

Leading the current drive to get Walter Winchell off the air is Representative Clare E. Hoffman of Michigan.

As early as December 14, 1940, The Hour pointed out that Nazi propagandists in the United States were featuring Representative Hoffman's name on their lists of recommended authors. Naziphile William Kullgren of Atascadero, California, has been one of Hoffman's chief boosters. Another enthusiastic sponsor of Hoffman's works was the Aryan Book Store, official Bund book store located at the Deutsches Haus in Los Angeles, California.

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FIFTH COLUMN LAUNCHES ATTACK ON THE HOUR

During the past week Fifth Columnists, goaded by our exposes of their current seditious activities, launched a coordinated attack on The Hour.

Father Charles E. Coughlin, Naziphile priest of Royal Oak, Michigan, led the assault with a full-page article in his fascist tabloid, Social Justice. Characterizing the editor of The Hour as a "pro-Stalinist non-Christian," Coughlin furiously denounced our newsletter's recent demand that government authorities suppress Social Justice. The item which so disturbed Coughlin appeared in the January 24 issue of The Hour and was entitled "Treason In Royal Oak." In this report, we pointed out that Social Justice, long a Goebbels mouthpiece in the United States, "is conducting a vigorous campaign to hamper the war effort of this country by undermining confidence in the Administration, stirring up animosity against those nations allied with the United States, and fomenting disunity among the American people." We urged that the pro-Nazi magazine "be immediately suppressed and its files seized by the Department of Justice." (The New York press on March 6 carried the news that Father Coughlin's financial records are being probed by Michigan state authorities.)

Another Fifth Column voice raised against The Hour was that of William Dudley Pelley, potty-fuehrer of the Silver Shirts who was sentenced in January to a two to three-year prison term in North Carolina. Pelley, who is out on bail, has been stopped from sending through the mails his subversive publication, The Galilean. In a confidential bulletin he is currently circulating, he blames this setback on The Hour, which he describes as a "Communist weekly," declaring: "I strongly suspect that it was Kahn's protests to the post office department which has brought this latest crack-down on our weekly publication."

A third angry critic of The Hour was the Brooklyn Tablet, notorious pro-"Christian Front" publication. The Tablet, quoting from Nazi-Lithuanian sources, berates us for our disclosures concerning the Committee for the Promotion of Democracy (see The Hour for December 13 and 30, 1941, and Feb. 21, 1942). Defending the pro-Nazi Nikifor Grigorjeff -- a key man in organizing the Committee -- as a "prominent Ukrainian-



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ian socialist," the Tablet accuses The Hour of participating in a "systematized Communist smear campaign." (For further data on the Naziphile support of the Committee for the Promotion of Democracy see page 4 of this issue.)

As a result of the comments in Social Justice, Pelley's bulletin and the Tablet, the offices of The Hour are being bombarded with anonymous letters threatening all manner of dire consequences if we continue our work of exposing the machinations of the U. S. Fifth Column.

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PRO-NAZI LITHUANIAN NEWSPAPER STILL PUBLISHED IN BOSTON

Keleivis, Which Spreads Axis Propaganda, Boosts "Committee for Promotion of Democracy"

Outstanding among foreign-language publications which have served as Nazi propaganda agencies in the United States is Keleivis ("Traveler"), a Lithuanian-language weekly still published at 253 West Broadway, South Boston, Mass. The newspaper is edited by a Lithuanian-American fascist, Stanley Michelson. It has a circulation of approximately 40,000.

Keleivis has made little attempt to conceal its sympathy for Hitler's cause. Not only have its editors openly expressed profound admiration for the Quisling regime established in Lithuania by the Third Reich; but they have regularly featured dispatches from Nazi-endorsed correspondents in Kaunas, reprinted numerous articles from the Nazi-Lithuanian press and published lengthy extracts from speeches delivered over the Goebbels-controlled Kaunas radio station.

When Hitler attacked Lithuania in June, 1941, Keleivis enthusiastically welcomed the invasion as the "liberation" of the Baltic state. Echoing the cynical claims of the Propaganda Ministry of the Third Reich, the fascist Boston paper described the Lithuanian people as wildly rejoicing when the Nazis marched into their homeland. Typical of this Hitlerite journalism was the following passage from an article appearing in Keleivis on July 9, 1941:

"When the Germans began to march upon Russia, a wave of happiness began to rise for every Lithuanian ... In all of Lithuania it was fully believed that no one else could or would free the Baltic nations from communist slavery if Germany did not do it. ... not one of the large democratic states were hearty friends of the Lithuanians. ... Those overpraised and overhonored European democracies, that is France and England, even held up Lithuania's legalization of the Memel territory. ... Therefore, for the Lithuanians, it would be hopeless work to wait for the democracies to free the Baltic states from Bolshevik slavery."

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Keleivis as Jew-Baiter

In true Nazi style, Keleivis is scurrilously anti-Semitic. Jews are referred to as "stinking kikes," and the Hitlerite canard of "Jewish-Bolshevism" is a favorite subject of discussion. After soviets were established in Lithuania in July, 1940, Keleivis launched a campaign of vitriolic slander against the Jewish people, asserting that "Jew Communists" had seized the Lithuanian government. Some characteristic headlines were: "Jews Will Have Shirts -- Lithuanians Won't" (issue of January 8, 1941); "Jews Will Control Meat" (issue of February 1, 1941); "Jews and Russians -- Real Rulers of Lithuania" (issue of June 4, 1941). The political situation in Lithuania was summarized in Keleivis as follows:

"Perhaps it will not be clear to America's Lithuanians why the people of Lithuania are electing Jews, and Russians as their representatives instead of Lithuanians? It is so because the Lithuanian people cannot elect whom they want but have to vote for those candidates who are put up by the agents of Moscow. ... If the Lithuanian people had freedom, they would not elect Jew Communists as their representatives."

On June 25, 1941, immediately after the Nazis invaded Lithuania, Keleivis asked: "Where is Paleckis now with all his Jewish commissars? Did they run through the mud to Stalin? Or maybe they are already sitting in jail." And the editors of the Naziphile sheet gloated "Good, good, the Jews are chased out of Lithuania!"

Kelcivis, Bagocius, and the Committee for the Promotion of Democracy

On December 13, 1941, in an article on the so-called Committee for the Promotion of Democracy, The Hour reported that F. J. Bagocius, one of the founders of the Committee, was closely associated with the pro-Nazi paper, Keleivis. (Bagocius acted as spokesman for the Committee for the Promotion of Democracy when this group sent a delegation to the Department of State last fall.)

Bagocius, who is a lawyer, helped draw up the statement of ownership of Keleivis. His office is located at the same address as the publication, and he is a frequent contributor to this pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic sheet. The paper in turn gives enthusiastic publicity to his various activities, reprints his speeches and regularly supports him as candidate for the presidency of the Lithuanian Alliance of America. Lithuanian-American circles refer to Bagocius as "the brains behind Keleivis."

While Bagocius was helping organize the Committee for the Promotion of Democracy, Keleivis published articles warmly praising the aims of that organization. When The Hour exposed leading members of the Committee, Keleivis accused our newsletter of taking part in a "plot" against "patriots." The pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic Lithuanian press as a whole rallied to the defense of Bagocius' organization. (See page 2 of this issue of The Hour.) The fact that these Fifth Column publications so ardently champion the Committee for the Promotion of Democracy is indicative of just how "democratic" are the Committee's aims.